



Water-Wise Plant Exchange

There has never been a better time to conserve water by incorporating water-wise plants and efficient irrigation techniques in your landscapes and gardens. The annual Water-Wise Plant Exchange held May 8, 2010 at the Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouses was the perfect opportunity to pick up some drought-resistant plants, *for free*, and learn how to save water in your yards. Home gardeners donated water-wise plants at the exchange, from 8 a.m. to noon. Trees, cuttings and seeds were also available.

Master Gardeners, and others with expertise in native and water-wise plants, were on hand to offer advice for nurturing yards and gardens that are beautiful and can thrive in San Joaquin Valley weather with a minimal amount of water. Free brochures were available on native plants and other water-wise plants that thrive in our climate.

The City of Fresno's transition to water meters makes now the time to rethink the way we use water, and conserving this invaluable natural resource in our front and back yards is a great place to start. Landscape irrigation represents up to 70% of water used in a typical household. Much of it is wasted by inefficient irrigation and water-guzzling plants. For example, households can save 15-25 gallons of water per day by adjusting sprinklers so they don't water driveways, streets and sidewalks. And water-wise San Joaquin Valley-friendly trees and plants use 2/3 less water than other plants.

May is Water Awareness Month and the Water-Wise Plant Exchange underscores the need to conserve our precious natural resource. Partners in the plant exchange include: the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program, Central Valley Water Awareness Committee, California State University, Fresno's Horticulture Unit, Fresno County Women's Chamber of Commerce, University of California Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener Program, California Native Plant Association, Clovis Botanical Gardens, Tree Fresno, Water-wise Landscape Design and International Center for Water Technology at CSUFresno.

For a list of water-wise plants, water conservation gardening tips and many other ways to save water inside and outside the home visit www.fresnowater.org or call the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program at (559) 621-5480.



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FSU Greenhouses 5/8/10













